



**Transcript for the December 29, 2011
Nonimmigrant Visa WEBCHAT**

Q. Good afternoon, If I wanted to buy a business in the US with the intention of operating the business with family all british born holding UK passports, how and what would we have do?

A. If you are looking to invest in a business in the United States, you may be eligible for an E visa, which is for treaty traders and investors. This visa class is intended for people to reside temporarily in the United States in order to develop and direct the operations of an enterprise in which they have made a substantial investment. You can read more about this process on our website, here: <http://london.usembassy.gov/e.html>

Q. Earlier this year I booked a 15 day holiday to the USA. My travel date was due to be 6 September 2011.I discovered approximately three months before my journey that I was not eligible for a visa waiver. I had no knowledge of this fact before the holiday was booked.Apparently, this was due to a conviction I had for possession of a small amount of cannabis. This conviction took place 35 years previously when I lived in Cannock, Staffordshire.I went through the required channels to obtain a copy of an ACPO and other related documents, along with character references that I supplied to the Embassy of the USA in London. I subsequently received an appointment for an interview at the Embassy and duly attended on 18 August.At that interview I was told that my visa application had to be dealt with by the Department of Homeland Security. This would take approximately six weeks to process and I would be contacted via e-mail with the result.Since the appointment at the Embassy I have heard nothing further. I was therefore unable to take my holiday.It is still my intention to visit the USA at some future date but at present I am totally in the dark as to whether this would be possible.I have at no time been given any contact details for the Department of Homeland Security and have therefore been unable to ascertain the result of my application. The only proof I have of my attendance at the Embassy is the appointment reference shown on the Courier Delivery Information sheet, this reference being N14.

A. The visa application process when you have had a previous arrest or conviction can often take several months. We are unable to provide case specific information in this format, but to discuss the status of your case, please call our Embassy Operator Assisted Information Service at 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

Q. Hello! I submitted Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application DS-160 and now am asked to bring the Confirmation along with Passport to the Application Service Center. Where is this Center located in London? Do I need to schedule appointment?

A. You will need to schedule an appointment through our Operator Assisted Information Service in order to continue the visa application process.

Q. Also, I want to schedule an interview for Visa application; however, I can not reach telephone number 09042-450-100 from my Orange pay-as-you-go and contract phones. Is there an alternative number I could call from my mobile phone to schedule an interview? Alternatively, is it possible to reach 09042-450-100 calling from a telephone boot?

A. There is not an alternative number to call. If you are unable to reach the Operator Assisted Information Service through your mobile phone, you may wish to try calling from a land line.

Q. Hi, I am from India and working in UK under "Inter Company Transfer" status. My wife and minor daughter are here with me as dependents. My wife's sister lives in USA with green card status and invited us to visit USA during March 2012 and ready to sponsor. Kindly let me know the documents that we require to produce to get Visit visa to USA. Thanks.

A. As an Indian citizen planning to travel on holiday to the United States, you will be required to apply for a B2 visa. You can read about the application process here: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html> You will need to complete DS-160 application forms and schedule an interview for each member of the family who intends to travel. At the interview you will be required to show your valid Indian passport. You will also be required to demonstrate that you have strong ties outside the United States. For information on non-British citizens applying for visas in the UK, you should look at our recent blog post on the topic: <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772>



Q. I'm writing to gather some advice on my situation. The general outline of the story is that my boyfriend has previously won a scholarship in the USA and received a visa for one year, we want to be together so I would like to go after him to America. I would like to work but after enquiring on the website I can't seem to find a suitable option. Could you advise any option that would be a good choice for this type of situation? If it is not possible I would still like to go with him as a visitor. If this is the best available option, could you please give me some advice on the requirements, and documents that I would need? Thank you in advance for your help.

A. If you wish to travel to the United States and work, you must qualify for an employment based visa in your own right. Please note that you cannot reside in the United States on a tourist visa. Information about the different types of employment based visas available can be found on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov/work.html>

Q. I am currently a second year university student. I have been accepted work placement/unpaid internship for four weeks in New York. What category of visa will I need to apply? And what type of paper work will I need to take with me for myself and from the university? My placement starts 1st April 2012.

A. It depends on the type of work you will be doing. You may wish to contact the Operator service on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min, plus network extras) to advise them of your exact situation. They will then be able to direct you to the most appropriate visa category.

Q. Re: Exit stamps in Passport I am intending to visit the US for a recreational sport which will mean leaving (to Canada) without passing through border control and then re-entering the US (through border control). As there will be no "exit stamp" will this cause me problems on re-entry? (The entire initial entry to re-entry will be within 6 months) (n.b. it's a long distance trail walk)

A. If you intend to undertake your trip on the visa waiver program, you will need to demonstrate that you were in the United States for fewer than 90 days. As the U.S. does not issue exit stamps, it may help to have a Canadian entry stamp. You will also need to demonstrate that you do not intend to stay in the United States for more than 90 days. Alternatively, you may wish to apply for a B2 visitors visa. While the port of entry always determines how long a visitor may stay in the United States, with a visa it is possible to enter the U.S. for up to 6 months. If you apply for a visa, you should be prepared to demonstrate at the visa interview why you are not traveling on the Visa Waiver Program.

Q. HELLO. ME AND MY FIANCE HAVE APPLIED FOR K1 VISA. I AM A US CITIZEN... SINCE JUNE 16,2011 SHE HAS BEEN PUT ON ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS. ITS BEEN OVER 6 MONTHS , HOW LONG DO WE WAIT? CAN WE COME IN TO TALK TO SOMEONE./?

A. Administrative processing often takes several months, and in some cases can take longer than six months. For information on your specific case, you can call the Embassy Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

Q. COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT FORM TO FILL AS THEY ARE TOO MANY FORMS ON THE WEB?

A. If you want to travel to the U.S. as a tourist, you should follow the instructions to apply for a B-2 visa. You will be required to complete a DS-160 form before attending an interview at the Embassy. Information is available from our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>

Q. hi... I am Pakistani National.... I am here for my PhD degree (3.5 years) on scholarship from my employer back in Pakistan.... I want to visit US in July for my younger brother wedding... My question is how I can show my strong ties to UK? 1) Letter from my Supervisor/University (UK).... 2) My scholarship letter from my employer... 3) My husband will not come with me he will stay here in UK for his Masters..... 4) My house rent paid till December..... Please Advise me....

A. There is no set form of evidence you must bring to demonstrate your strong ties to the United Kingdom. Applying for a visa is not primarily a document based process. The final determination on your eligibility can only be made by a consular officer at the time of your application.



U.S. Embassy London - Visa webchats

Q. How soon can I get my passport ,if my interview is successful in view of my residency status that will expire 4days after the interview. Is there any possibility of getting it on or before my residency status expires in the UK.

A. In cases where a visa is approved, processing of the visa generally takes 5 days plus delivery time.

Q. how much is the longest period that i could stay in the USA as a tourist, and what documents i need to get this visa tipe, i mean something like invitation letter from my boyfriend, insurance or what else? thank you

A. A tourist holding a B-2 visa may be admitted to the United States for up to 6 months. The final decision to admit or deny all travellers to the United States, even if they hold a valid visa, rests with Immigration officials at the port of entry. If they are not convinced that you are a bona fide visitor, you will be refused entry and returned to the UK.

Q. hello, is a 'certificate of travel' allowed as travel documentation to the US?

A. In order to travel to the United States, a document must have the biographic information of the holder, including a photograph, and must be valid for travel to the U.S and for return to the holder's country of residence. If you are not eligible for the Visa Waiver Program, you will be required to apply for a visa. The final determination on the validity of your document for a visa will be made at the time you apply.

Q. My H1 visa was approved at my appointment 2 weeks ago, it has now been 9 working days and dxsecure have not received my passport yet. I am due to fly on Saturday- Is there anyway that I can check the status of my Passport and Visa tomorrow , given that it will be 10 days since it was approved?

A. If you are concerned that your visa has not yet been approved, you may wish to contact the Embassy's Operator service on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min, plus network extras) for assistance.

Q. I am a music student and the work placement is in a recording studio in New York city and I will not be paid any monies. It's like a work experience and the work placement has completed the university risk assessment. My peer and I are both British citizens. We don't get paid for the work we do. We are there to gain knowlege and experience for our coursework, Please advise what type of visa to apply, and if we can apply online.

A. We would need some further information before making a determination on the type of visa you may be eligible for. As we are unable to answer case-specific questions, we recommend that you contact the Operator so you can be advised more fully.

Q. I made a mistake in filling my father in-law date of birth and that of my father in my ds230 form, will it affect my chances of securing an immigrant visa

A. This chat is on the non-immigrant visa application process. If you have questions on immigrant visas, please check back for our next chat on that subject! In the mean time, you can always contact our Embassy Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min plus network extras).

Q. I WENT THROUGH THIS FORM AND AT THE END OF IT WAS A QUESTION TO DO ABOUT WHERE YOU WANT TO STUDY ? I THOUGHT I WAS ON THE WRONG FORM.

A. The DS-160 form will provide additional questions based on the answers you give it. Make sure that you select the correct visa type on the first screen, if you want to visit as a tourist, you must select B-2 (tourist) visa.

Q. hello, pls what would i do if my partner is a British, & my two children, and i would like 2 travel on an holiday 2 U.S FOR AN HOLIDDAY, but i have a U.K RESIDENT PERMIT.

A. If you are not a member of a visa waiver program country, you will be required to apply for a visitor's visa to enter the United States. The list of countries whose citizens are eligible to travel visa waiver can be found here: <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html>. Information on applying for a B2 visa for tourist travel to the United States can be found here: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>

Q. Hi i want to apply for a b1/b2 visa what documents do i require to aply?



A. Information about applying for a B1/B2 visa is available from our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov/b1apply.html>, including any additional documents you might need to present, depending on your intended activities in the United States.

Q. Sandhya Vanga: I have seen in site that we should not taka a hand bag,i have a 2 year old child,so for her i need to take some snaks and water .Can i carry that with me?

A. You may bring snacks and a bottle of water with you if your child will accompany you to your interview.

Q. yes pls i know dt i'll have 2 apply for a viza, thank u, but what i'm try 2 know is d what are d requirement 4 d application.

A. If you will travel as a tourist, please follow the instructions on our website for applying for a B-2 (tourist) visa - <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html> . You will be required to complete the DS-160 form and attend the Embassy to allow a consular officer to adjudicate your application.

Q. What further information do you require? The work we do are student based university modules. My peer will engage in technical studio sound mixing and observations of a recording studio. I will be in the marketing and promotions. Hope this is enough info for you to advise the type of visa we need to apply. I do understand you want us to contact the Operator, but if you can help advise the correct visa, I am most grateful.

A. If you will observe only, you may be eligible for a B-1 visa. If you will engage in employment, you may require a work visa (H-2) or an exchange visa (J-1).

Q. If i am applying for a B1/B2 visa for my daughter 2 year old and myself,do i have to take my daughter for a interview?

A. As your child is under 14, she is not required to attend the interview. You may submit her visa application at the time you apply for your own visa.

Q. A while back, whiles a student in the UK I applied for a US visa in London but was informed by the officer to reapply in Ghana since that was my country of origin and I had already had a US visa issued by the embassy in Accra.I am now a UK citizen and holder of a British passport. I travel to the US (with my family) a couple of years ago on my British passportand had such a difficult time at the airport because I stated that I had been refused a visa before in London and although I explained that was with my Ghanaian passport the officer would not believe me. About a couple of hours later and speaking to another officer I was finally allowed into the country. I asked if a note could be put on the system so that I don't have to go through that again on my next visit but was informed that was not possible and would have to go through that again.Is there any way of making things less stressful during my next visit eg letter from the London embassy (going for a friends wedding in June).Thank you.

A. If you will travel under the Visa Waiver Program, with registration under ESTA, you are required to declare any visa refusals, even if the refusal was under another nationality. As you had a visa refused under your Ghanaian passport, you are still required to answer "Yes" to the question "Have you ever been refused a visa to the U.S?" If your registration under ESTA is rejected, you will be required to apply for a visa.

Q. Thank you for your information link concerning a business in the US. Do you have these chat rooms often, if so, would be interested in any relating to my question on business in US, please could you provide me with dates/times for the future?

A. We hold webchats each month, please check our website, http://london.usembassy.gov/visa_webchats.html, for the date of our next one. We post the subject of the chat in advance, so if you have any questions, you can post them on our blog or twitter feed.

Q. i think my children & dad dosen't need viza 2 go, pls can i know ao much is d viza fee pls ?

A. If your children and their father are UK citizens, they may be eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program. They would still be required to apply for an ESTA, for which the cost is \$14. More information on the Visa Waiver Program can be found here: <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html>



Q. B-1 visa sounds more like it because I am not paid for the observation carried out during placement. Also, I already have an ESTA visa because I was in New York this September. In this case, do I just go ahead and apply for B-1 visa. Please confirm.

A. We cannot pre-adjudicate visas. This is why we request that you call the operator, so you can get the best advice based on your individual circumstances. If you believe you are eligible for a B-1 visa, you are not prohibited from applying. The final determination on your eligibility can only be made by a consular officer at the time you apply.

Q. Graham Castle submitted the following question via our blog: Graham Castle - MY wife and I have two children plus grandchildren +1 greatgrandchild living in the States. We also have family in the UK. We have been visiting twice a year. We do not intend to stay in the US having our home and work and general life in the UK. Is there a more suitable way to apply to enter the US than the Visa Waiver program that would allow us extended stays. We have invested in a house that we can use(until we can travel no longer) when we are in the US.

A. If you wish to remain in the United States for more than 90 days, you may be eligible for a B-2 visa, which can allow you to remain in the United States for up to 6 months. Information about the B-2 visa is available from the Embassy website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>.

Q. I would be needing a B1/B2 visa as the hike takes around 5 months to complete. Entry to Canada requires submitting a form to get prior approval so there would be proof of departure (Canadian Immigration stamp and return the application for entry). Am I right in thinking normal tourist visa would be adequate ? (Demonstrating the need for a 6 month stay is not a problem given the hike involved)

A. To discuss further and ensure you are applying for the appropriate visa class, please contact the Live Operator Service, tel 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at GBP 1.20 per minute). This is also the number through which you will schedule an appointment.

Q. Elaine submitted the following question via our blog: I am a British Citizen transferred by my employer to work in the US on an L1 visa. I married a British Citizen in June this year and he immediately applied for an L2 visa to join me in the US. We have been waiting for his visa now for 6 months. Do I give up waiting and look for a new job back in the UK?

A. If your husband has applied for the L-2 and has not yet received any further information about his application, he may wish to contact the Embassy's Operator service on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min, plus network extras) for assistance.

Q. U.S. Consular Officer: Dave submitted the following question via our blog: My son has not been granted a USA Visa under section 212 (a) (1) (A) (iii) medical ineligibility. Therefore we need to apply for a "Waver of Ineligibility." Please could you advise me how to proceed with this process.

A. If your son has been found ineligible for a visa, the consular officer must determine whether he will be recommended for a waiver of that ineligibility. If your son is not sure if he was recommended for a waiver, he may wish to contact the Embassy's Operator service on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min, plus network extras) for assistance.

Q. the person who we will visit in USA, do you need the invitation letter from them original or printout copy?

A. You are not required to show an invitation letter, as each applicant is required to demonstrate their eligibility for the visa on their own merit. The invitation or guarantee of a third party cannot be accepted as proof of your eligibility for the visa.

Q. hello i have an indian passport but am studying in the UK on a student visa. i want to go to the US in april on a visitor's B-1 visa to attend a conference. i want to apply for the visa in the london embassy in february. but i will be travelling to india in early april and then travel to the US from there. my question is: is it okay to have the visa issued in the UK and then travel to the US from india? is there any necessity to travel from the same country where the visa has been issued?



A. If you are legally resident in the UK, you may apply for a visa at the Embassy in London. You will still be required to demonstrate that you have strong and binding ties to your place of residence which will compel you to depart the U.S. at the end of your stay. Once issued, you are not required to travel to the U.S. from the same country as that from which the visa was issued.

Q. Is the Operator assistance open today and tomorrow. If so, what times should I phone.

A. Yes, it is open today until 9pm, and tomorrow, 8am-6pm

Q. Does the up to 90 days twice a year still apply to UK citizens using the esta forms visiting Florida ?

A. If you are travelling under the Visa Waiver Program with an ESTA, you may enter the United States for up to 90 days. There is no set period that you must remain outside the United States before applying to re-enter. However, if Immigration officials believe that you are using the Visa Waiver Program to reside in the U.S. you will be refused entry

Q. I am looking to holiday in the us with my wife (holds a canadian passport) and my 2 daughters(both british) and will be flying into toronto and then by car to Niagra then we are looking to cross into us to buffalo and tour us and back into canada to vancouver by land, please advise type of visas required, also does my wife need visa?

A. British citizens may be eligible to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, and will be required to have a valid ESTA. Canadian citizens do not need a visa or ESTA to enter the United States, but do need to demonstrate they intend to depart the United States at the end of their stay. If you are not a citizen of a Visa Waiver Country, you will need to apply for a B2 visa to visit the United States on holiday.

Q. IF i have a family in Chicago which is a Student, is my visa still a tourist visa 4 a visit pls

A. Yes, the visa refers to your status, and not to anyone you might be visiting

***** Please be sure to visit our website for information about future webchats *****